

Transition Town Kingston – core group meeting
Tues 28 Jan 2025, 6.30 to 9.00pm at the Spring Grove
NOTES (Actions and deferred discussions in red)

Present: DHD (chairing), MO, PMc, MM (Note-taking), PJM + visitor [Rakesh](#) from Transition Network, London Transition Hub,, from 7.00ish

Apologies were received from: TI, HG, JM

1. **Last meeting's notes** (sent earlier) **were** confirmed and approved for publication on the TTK website (**MM**), with a few items carried over for today's or future discussion/implementation.

2. **TTK updates**
Some reports had been sent round earlier and feature here if discussed or elaborated on, and/or in Appendices.
TTK events/projects:
 - **Energy Group** – PJM & DHD reported that they had a new member keen to set up a solar panel factory in the UK; EG were helping RBK by commenting on a Council retrofitting manual for planning purposes. EG would be participating in this year's Efficient Homes event, May 10th. More in *Appendix 1*.
 - **Abundance**, no report as out of season (TI)
 - **Canbury Community Garden** (MM) – see *Appendix 2*.
 - **KE News and other comms/outreach** (MM) – last minute call for items or updates for newsletter due out imminently. See also *Appendix 3*.
 - **Recycling Minds**, no report
 - **“Green chains/corridors”** (MM) – yet to attend a meeting of Kingston Biodiversity Forum but would continue to promote the idea as and when possible. RBK biodiversity officer Elliot would be leaving RBK (though not Kingston!) at the end of Jan to work for Citizen Zoo – **MM** would buy and give him a bottle of English wine as a thank you present from TTK. The reassuring news for the borough was that he would be replaced.

3. **Other groups & orgs:**
 - **STWC** – see *Appendix 4*.
 - **RBK & KEF** – DHD reported that climate related good practice would be embedded in the Kingston 2025 celebrations and events, including the Carnival.
 - **TCC** - MM had circulated meeting notes and news earlier and would continue to do so.
 - **Transition Together** – MM continued to pass on items of interest from TT, Vive etc though found the number and range of discussions a bit overwhelming and often had to read and forward very selectively. Those interested in the wider movement should consider joining the Transition social media and select what is of interest for themselves. Also see # 8, AOB, below for Rakesh's updates.
 - **Sustainable Transport/KCC** (HG)... **MM** would accept the invitation, circulated earlier, to attend the active travel meeting in Feb hosted by the Richmond Safer Streets group. Her question to submit in advance would be about comms – how do we discuss the need for safer active travel with the vociferous driver's lobby and get them on side too (Climate Outreach offered useful models such as finding shared values that could be imitated)?

4. **Repair Café Kingston - standing item**, to discuss arrangements for next RCK, updates etc.
Organising team sadly depleted for the Feb RCK – MM, MF and Karim (we hoped) would be in charge. MM had the PAT. For the benefit of our visitor Rakesh, DHD highlighted how well the RCK was doing, with many new volunteers offering a useful public service, fixing or advising on around 20-25 items per session, and PMc collecting and sharing data, some of which was beginning to affect or influence manufacturers. See also *Appendix 5*.

5. Coming up / held over from previous meetings

- **Date of AGM** would be Tues 29th April, 6.30 at the Spring Grove (in lieu of our April CG meeting). Project groups should begin getting their accounts and contributions to TTK funds in order, etc. and preparing annual (May 2024 – April 2025) reports. We would invite all TTK supporters and volunteers to attend and offer refreshments (tbc) and networking/social opps. See also *Appendix 6* on previous social events.
- **Saturday May 10th – RBK's Efficient Homes event** – TTK would participate as we did last year, mainly organised by the Energy Group
- **Project groups under the TTK umbrella:** deferred, see *Appendix 7*.

6. **Resources standing item, to discuss as needed:** publicity, fliers, flag/banner; TTK funds and Open Collective, website, TTK property/assets list... etc - all carried over for future meetings, See *Appendix 8* re fliers.

7. **AOB:** Green Drinks had been cancelled so that we could devote the rest of the meeting to hear from **Rakesh**, whose mission (see also *Appendix 9* on background to the visit) was two-fold – a selective summary follows:

- **Re TTK**, to hear from us what we do and how we felt it was going, and enquire how a strengthened (professionalised, well-funded?) Transition movement could support us – admin, record-keeping, documentation, insurance, accounts, training, networking...? Rakesh knew other local green groups – STWC, permaculture and orchard projects in Tolworth, and we tried to clarify our relationships with these very independent projects, established well before TTK. The discussion returned at the end to our visions for TTK 5 years ahead, which were as varied as the CG members.
- **Re the current situation and discussions about the future within the Transition movement**, which had grown hugely since its inception in Totnes in 2005-6 (TTK was one of the earlier TTs, starting with discussions in 2008); this international growth seemed to be necessitating structural change, reorganisation, different networks (national hubs and/or local hubs?) and new governance (maybe as a CIC), even new names (was “Transition” past its usefulness?).
Some examples of question to resolve: Could a large international movement realistically be managed from Totnes? How could all the different Transition groups, with different strengths and experiences and interests learn from and support each other? How could the movement become more diverse and attractive to minority groups and young people? How would local Transition clusters, e.g. the London hub, relate to the wider movement? Would there be tensions between local groups' independence/autonomy and more direction/support from on high? Could the Friday 7th - Sunday 9th February Transition Assembly decide the future direction of the Transition movement in Wales and England, resolve some of these emerging issues and differing views, and set the movement in a new, more secure direction?
- **First reactions:** *was this all a bit a bit abstract so far, rather too different from our current practical, technical focus and practices? Did we feel inspired, concerned about change, overwhelmed, energised, enthused, challenged, tired...? To discuss. Could the disadvantages of more centralisation outweigh the advantages? It might be useful if someone from TTK could go to the Assembly, participate, help shape the future of Transition and report back, though none of those present could commit the time, so **MM** would recirculate the invitation and info - see <https://transitiontogether.org.uk/about-transition-assembly/>. We would see the reports anyway in due course and probably should read them carefully and discuss the implications for TTK as and when.*

8. **Date of next meeting:** Tues 25 Feb, 7.00pm in Surbiton, venue t b c
NB, different time and place. Because most of us wanted to attend Terezie's environment-themed concert in Surbiton that evening from 6.00pm – 7.00pm (*see right*) we would convene immediately afterwards in a nearby pub, though would have to cancel Green Drinks again **(MM)**

APPENDICES

We didn't meet in December and Rakesh visited the Jan 28th CG meeting, so, in an attempt to get ahead, share info beforehand, and save time on the evening, a few updates were emailed ahead of the Jan meeting, mainly FYI and not needing much discussion or action. Current versions below.



1. **Energy group** – Peter & Damon had an MSc student and his supervisor from KU visiting their homes to see retrofitting in action and ask interesting questions.

2. **CCG** is finally handed on to John and Mary. Both have busy Tuesday evenings so we are unlikely to see much of them, but we hope they will keep in touch with TTK CG. Reduced 2025 opening times (till more volunteers emerge?) posted on CCG Fb page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/canburycommunitygarden>. Small amount of CCG funding left, initially intended for a CCG banner for the garden gate, tbc.

3. TTK comms and outreach

- MM finally got round to contacting refugee groups re the sewing/upcycling sessions idea and heard back that RAK and RBKares are already doing something similar at St John's Church every Wednesday.
- Time to stop talking to ourselves **(All)**? MM made a start by contacting KVA Food Group re displaying RCK fliers at food banks, and by offering an item on RCK to her local residents' association newsletter, and by encouraging KE News readers to get relevant local green news into their residents' association and other newsletters. MM had occasionally been asked by e.g. U3A, but thinks we could be more proactive in the new year about spreading the word about TTK activities of general interest such as our Repair Café, encouraging wildlife in gardens, apple harvesting, advice about energy efficiency, reducing waste... MM had an interested reply from her local residents' association CARA and had sent them something brief about RCK. Could you do the same in your neighbourhood or local groups? Would you like drafts that you could edit/adapt for your outlet?

4. **STWC - TTK at STWC open afternoon, 21/12** – not much interest from the sparse visitors (too short notice? too much competition?) but Peter, Damon and MM had some useful conversations with each other and people we knew.

5. **RCK** had a scare in December when the Library closed for emergency maintenance, which was resolved only a few days before the December RCK, resulting in much emergency communicating and a kind offer

from STWC to rehome RCK if needed, which we could consider if we ever again need to find another venue, temporarily or permanently. MM participated in the December Zoom meeting of GSR CN and have circulated a few notes to RCK organisers, minutes will follow. Repair Café had a quiet session in Jan but anticipated that Feb will be back to normal (bookings already coming in). New RCK fliers still to be finalised and printed.

We are still working on a reprint of our flier (MM, PMc); the print run of our repair data form has been delivered, and RCK celebrated our 24th repair session on Jan 4.

6. Social events, refreshments -

November Thank you drinks were well attended and fun, with a good turn-out of sociable volunteers from RCK. Thanks to Damon and Hilary for organising the space, the food and drinks. Maybe we need to sort out a reasonable way of paying for drinks before the next gathering, for the AGM?

7. TTK Constitution re project groups – do all our project groups, old and new, conform to this, or even know about it? How can we ensure that they do, and that they “fit” TTK practices? Or does it not matter?

(All)

- TTK Constitution, Section 8 - PROJECT GROUPS

8.1 TTK project groups will form as needed to deliver the aims and purposes of TTK, as outlined above, in positive and visible ways. Projects should be in line with TTK guiding principles and Constitution.

8.2 While a group exists it should aim to have a representative in the Core Group to have a say in and assist with the overall direction and co-ordination of TTK activities, to share project updates with the team, and ensure the free flow of information and knowledge around the TTK network.

8.3 Project groups will make their own decisions and run their own meetings and activities, and are also encouraged to participate in general TTK events and activities.

8.4 Project groups should take all due care to deal with money and relate to members and participants with integrity, openness and transparency, and to protect and enhance the public reputation of TTK.

8.5 Project groups will be responsible for raising their own money and acquiring resources, and for using these wisely. Projects for which funding is sought under the umbrella of TTK or which are to be held in the TTK bank account should be agreed with the Core Group.

8.6 TTK projects will be entitled to support from TTK, including: use of the TTK logo on posters, flyers or other materials; use of equipment owned collectively by TTK, such as display materials; means of communication with the TTK member base via the email newsletter, Facebook, TTK open meetings and AGM; the means to publicise projects to the public via the TTK website and TTK events; support with grants and fund-holding through the use of the TTK name on funding applications and, where necessary, the use of the main TTK bank account to hold their funds; cover in TTK general insurance policy.

8.7 Projects that raise funding will hold the budget for the project, be responsible for monitoring processes and outcomes and for reporting accounts to their members and at TTK AGMs. Project groups with their own income and expenditure should adhere to good practice in the administration of their funds and bank accounts (as outlined above in #7).

8.8 Project groups should ensure that their potential risks and liabilities are covered by any extant TTK insurance policy. If they are likely to incur risks and liabilities not covered, the project group should either take out their own insurance policy or take the necessary steps to extend TTK's insurance cover and contribute towards the additional cost of this.

8.9 Project groups should take direct responsibility for keeping their public profile, on the TTK website and elsewhere, up-to-date with news, events and achievements in order to maintain interest in TTK activities.

8.10 Project groups may dissolve when the need is gone, the project is completed or handed over to another community group, or for other reasons. They should notify the Core Group when this occurs, and take steps to facilitate handing over the project, its funds and any knowledge or experience gained to TTK in the first instance - and/or to organise its winding up.

8. Resources

Fliers – 500 of the new TTK fliers are stored at STWC so that we can all access them as and when (key to our store has a black tag labelled “Student store”). MM had taken 70 or to be distributed via Libraries + 170 for RBK rangers to display in pairs if possible + put a pair on display in the big Sainsbury on Richmond Road and has 90 or so at home. If you know of other notice boards etc please pick up some and get them displayed (**All**)

9 Background for Transition visit

From: Richard Couldrey

Sent: 28 September 2024 11:01

Subject: Transition Together Network Weaving - time for a chat?

Dear Marilyn and all at TT Kingston,

Lovely to see you in Soho the other week, Marilyn!

Rich here, in my Network Weaver role for Transition Together - firstly; thank you for all that you do to connect the community to resilience. It is so inspiring to see all your brilliant work in the community.

I'd like to invite your group to take part in a new phase of our movement building project for groups based in Wales and England.

Over the next seven months, I will be working as part of a [team of Network Weavers](#), contacting as many Transition groups across Wales and England as possible. We want to find out more about your work, how we can support your group's vision, and explore ways to weave deeper supportive connections between us all.

This is about making sure your voice is heard as we support National organising, and, specifically for London groups, what the relationship is between London Hub and London networks with the National scene.

This project will culminate in a Transition Assembly, February 7th - 9th 2025, an invitation for Transition groups across Wales and England to come together in one place, explore the big challenges and opportunities in our work, and forge a stronger movement for change.

I would love to meet with your group, either remotely or in person, to have an initial conversation about your existing activity, how you see yourself connecting with the wider Transition movement, and find out if you need any support to get to where you're going.

I know time is usually really tight for groups, so if it's easier I can happily join in with one of your planned meetings, or work around your capacity in other ways.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Rich